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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Dated: 7 March 1943

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PREFACE

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNS, LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. These reports appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. Eighty-three of these reports have been translated and issued by [REDACTED]

It is planned to issue a complete set of translations of the reports beginning with the most recent and working backward, but omitting those already translated by [REDACTED]. The numbering of the items was added by the [REDACTED] since the Germans did this only in the last eighteen reports, [REDACTED] inclusive. Since the original material was in Russian, an effort has been made when translating the German to determine the original Russian term wherever possible. This is facilitated by the Russian fondness for abbreviations. In these translations into English the probable meaning of the abbreviation will be given in parenthesis the first time it occurs in each report.

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The Soviet Union

Military-Economic Report

(Based on domestic radio traffic)

7 March 1943

More important reports

- (1) According to a coded message of the Civil Air Fleet Ju-52-machines will arrive in Kujbyshev, the first of which is to be assigned to the 12th Air Group (see daily report of 20 February).
- (2) The detached DF operators must return to Gurev without delay. It is strongly forbidden that direction finding work be suspended.
- (3) The Air Group Volkov (see daily report of 19 February) is apparently located in Yakutsk. This air group possesses a direction finder.
- (4) In a message of 4 March mention was made of an airport Vnukovo 24 km. southwest of Moscow, on the Kiev railway.
- (5) Workshops for radio apparatus are to be set up in Tiflis and Baku.
- (6) In the supplement to the decree of 27 February 1943 of the Council of the NK of the USSR and of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union published in the press "On the Preparation of the Tractors, Combines and Agricultural Machines of MTS(Machine-Tractor Stations) for the Field Cultivation Work of the Year 1943," it was reported:

Introduction

The Council of the NK of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party established that the MTS in the year 1942 did not fulfill an important part of its plans with regard to the work of the tractors and especially with regard to the salvage of grain crops by means of combines. The reality of this serious setback of MTS with respect to the accomplishment of agricultural work resulted not only from the temporarily discontinued fuel supply and the limited experience of the young tractor and combine operators, but also from the poorly accomplished repair work and the poor organization of the work of MTS. In certain cases there can even be ascertained an underestimation and an indifferent attitude of the Oblast' Committee and Rajon Committee of the Party, of the Central Committee of the Party of the

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Union Republics, of the Oblast' and Rajon Executive Committees, and of the agricultural offices with regard to the work of the MTS. The Council of the NK of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union warn the Agriculture Commissariat of the USSR, the Oblast' and Rajon Committees of the Party, the Central Committee of the Party of the Union Republics, the Oblast' and Rajon Executive Committees and the authorities of the Republics against a repetition of the mistakes of the previous year regarding the preparations, organization, and use of tractors and combines in the kolkhozes.

Point I

The progress of repair work on the tractors in the fourth quarter is considered unsatisfactory. This is especially the case in Altaj Oblast' where the plan for the fourth quarter is only 21% fulfilled. In the Krasnoyarsk Oblast' 42%, in Chelyabinsk Oblast' 59%, in Kirgiz 61%, in Omsk Oblast' 63% and in Bashkir 64% of the plan was fulfilled.

Point II

The Oblast' and Rajon Executive Committees, the authorities of the Republics, the Oblast' and Rajon Committees of the Party and the Central Committees of the Party of the Union Republics are requested to eliminate the setbacks in the repair work on the tractors and combines and to complete the repair of tractors within the period established in decree No. 1757, 31 October 1942 of the Council of the NK of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union.

2 March 1943

Chairman of the Council of the
NK of the USSR
J. StalinSecretary of the Central Committee of the Communist
Party of the Union

A. Andreev

Personnel Situation

(7) Tiflis. The Georgian Forest Commissariat reports that as of 20 March there will be assigned to forest work:

with horses	mobilized workers	541
without horses	mobilized workers	309

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(8) As of 28 March 900 persons, including 190 women, were assigned to trade and railroad schools. 700 persons, including 150 women, were admitted to work schools.

The NK for Health in Georgia sent to Nalchik, Pyatigorsk, Mineralnye-Vody and other areas of the North Caucasus a large group of medical personnel. A second group of doctors will depart shortly afterwards for Krasnodar, Stavropol, and Rostov on the Don. In all, over 200 medical personnel set out for the liberated areas.

(9) Tiflis complains to the NK for Coal in Moscow that the specialists starting for the Donbas have no money or travel provisions. With the abolition of trade inspection in Tiflis 46000 rubles are lacking for the payment of wages for the period from December to February and 16000 rubles for other expenditures.

(10) Kutais complains to the Chief Directorate for Aniline Dyes in Moscow that the additional fund for wages in the amount of 184,000 rubles has not yet been authorized. The workers received no wages for the fourth month.

(11) In a circular to the NKRF offices in Gorkij, Ufa, Molotov, Kirov, Kujbyshev, Aralsk, Chardzhou, Ilijsk, Rybacha, Novosibirsk, and Omsk the too slow return of workers of the Don-Kuban was denounced and a speed-up ordered.

(12) NKRF-Stalingrad must set up an "operative group" (for reconstruction work) numbering 15 men. It must further train 15 technicians and 25 Stakhanov-specialists in order to provide staff workers in the first quarter. Furthermore, a complete plan for 1943 for the training of staff workers must be set up. In the region of the Stalingrad Steamship Agency transport workers must be mobilized:

From the urban areas	100 men
From the rural areas	100 men

The rural population must be drafted first. The following are to be received:

Stalingrad	600 men
Krasnoarmejsk	300
Astrakhan	100

(13) From NKRF-Saratov a diving specialist must be sent to Sarepta and a diving teacher to Kamyshin.

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- (14) Transport workers must be mobilized for the Steamship Agency in Kujbyshev

Oblast':

from urban areas	50 men
from rural areas	50 men

in Saratov Oblast'

from urban areas	25 men
from rural areas	25 men

Kujbyshev is to receive 150 men and Saratov 100 men.

- (15) Transport workers must be mobilized for the Steamship Agency in the area of
-
- the Kazakh Republic:

from urban areas	25 men
from rural areas	25 men

- (16) Transport workers must be mobilized in the area of the Steamship Agency of the
-
- Bashkir Republic:

from urban areas	100 men
from rural areas	100 men
Ufa must receive	100 men

- (17) For the security of the ships of the "Volgatanker" fleet against the ice break-up
-
- in the Volga, the following work forces are needed for ice breaking work in various places:

Uslon	120 men
Gryaznyj Saton	100 men
Staraya Kama	25 men
Zolnye Gory	125 men

Food Situation

- (18) Tiflis. The entire stock of vegetable seeds is already distributed among the
-
- kolkhozes. The remaining stock is not on hand. After the arrival of the additional supply of
-
- seeds from Kazakhstan and Uzbek, these will be delivered according to requirements to the
-
- Road Directorate.

- (19) Ordzhonikidze. The kolkhozes procured 2214 tons of seed potatoes as of 20 Feb-
-
- ruary.

- (20) The Council of NK of North Osetia confirmed the plan for vegetable seed produc-
-
- tion. The area distribution will be:

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Watermelons	70 hectares
Melons	20
Pumpkin	75
Pumpkin for feed	100
Cucumbers	200
Tomatoes	9
Aubergine	2
Peppers	6
Summer squash	5
Radishes	15
Lettuce	1
Spinach	4
Cabbage	20
Carrots	25
Carrots for feed	5
Dill	3
Beets	35
Beets for feed	170
Parsley	6
Celery	2
Onions	55
Sorrel	7
Radish	10
Garlic	1
Beans	20

(21) Kutais set aside the following area for seed production:

Tomatoes	6 hectares
Aubergine	1.5
Peppers	1
Cucumbers	1
Peas	4
Flax	2
Beans	1
Onions	3
Beets	2

The quantities of seed which are needed will be sent from the railroad stations of

Alma-Ata, Stalingrad, and Moscow.

Metal Supply

(22) Tiflis. On 3 March there was no production of copper products because the

ovens were repaired. Stock of non-transported products: 48 (?) tons. - In February there were procured:

Copper	15 tons
Brass	59
Bronze	11
Zinc	1
Lead	219
Aluminum	34

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- (23) On 3 March there were 4 cars of ferromanganese at Station Kizil-Burun.
- (24) 11 cars of ferrosilicon and 43 cars of ferromanganese were sent to Baku Harbor.
- (25) On 18 May 1942 0.462 ton of silver sulfide was shipped to Novosibirsk for Factory #171.
- (26) On 1 March 5 tons of bronze was shipped to Combine Erivan.
- (27) The Meat and Dairy Industry delivered 5 tons of scrap iron in January/February.
- (28) Erivan transported for the stock of the first quarter:

Miscellaneous iron	15 tons
Sheet metal	5 tons
Pipe "GAS" (Gas pipe)	5 tons
Alloy steel	13 tons
Instrument steel	2 tons

- (29) The "Iron-Works" in Zestafoni must receive 1500 tons of washed ore from Chiaturi. The requirement in March amounts to 10000 tons of washed ore. In order to insure the work progress of the smelters Poti must deliver 8500 tons in March. In order to finish casting the spare parts, 15 tons of copper scrap and 3 tons of zinc are required for March.

(30) On 2 March the manganese trust in Chiaturi shipped 300 cars of ore to the iron works. An additional 15 tons of ore were loaded.

(31) Kutais reports a metal stock of 2693.2 tons as of 1 March. 0.59 ton of ferro-chrome is stored for the winter at the NKRF wharf in Ulyanovsk. This must be immediately transported to the scheduled receiver Plant "Teplokhod".

(32) In the Bezymyanka base for spare parts in Kujbyshev there are chimney pipes in the size 70x4 mm. Since this pipe is lacking in other localities of the Central-Volga Steamship Agency where the ships of the "Volgatanker" are being overhauled, NKRF-Kujbyshev must deliver 500 meters of chimney pipe from the Bezymyanka base.

(33) NKRF-Saratov must report whether it has received 20 tons of seamless rifled pipe from NKRF-factory in Pervoualsk and steel and iron scrap for the Chief Directorate for Metal Sales.

Material Supply

(34) Tiflis. Moscow is requested to ship 200 sets of truck tires from the allocation of the 4th quarter and to allot 10 tons of label paper to the champagne plant. 110 tons of newsprint arrived from Balakhna. The supply of the publishers is out of line. The Chief Directorate for Paper Sales in Baku illegally held back 81 tons of newsprint.

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(35) Erivan asks the Chief Directorate for Meat and Dairy Supply in Moscow to ship

4 sets of truck tires.

(36) NKRF-Semipalatinsk is to receive 10 tons of oakum.

Chemical Supply

(37) NKRF-Chardzhou is allotted 690 cbm. of acetylene by the Sverdlovsk Autogenous Plant #3 in the first half year.

(38) NKRF-Saratov is to ship 200 carboys of ammonia to the Chemical Combine

"Chernorechenskij."

Coal Supply

(39) Tiflis. Plant "Generator" reports a stock of 105 tons of Tkvibuli coal as of

1 March.

(40) Because of a lack of coal, the shut down of the cloth factory threatens. In order

to be able to carry out special orders the free delivery of 1300 tons of coal is requested from the stock of the State Coal Reserves.

(41) The Food Industry consumed:

In January	coal	498 tons
In February	coal	388 tons
Stock 1 March	coal	500 tons

(42) The lithopone factory in Kutais was authorized 200 tons of Tkvibuli coal for March.

(43) The Canning Industry consumed:

In January	coal	498 tons
In February	coal	308 tons
Stock March 3	coal	50 tons

(44) The 2200 tons of coal for the enterprises of the Transcaucasian Food Industry

could not be shipped in February.

Production

(45) Tiflis. It was reported to the NK for Construction in Moscow that, because of

the lack of mine timbers and the poor condition of the clay-pits, the mining of fire-brick clay could not be carried out for a period of 21 days in January and 12 days in February. Since not more than 10 tons of clay can be mined in the period of 24 hours the brick factory has discontinued its work. The factory in Dziruly did not operate for 10 days in February and worked

only at a capacity of 50%. Under these conditions the ordered shipment of 10 carloads of fire-

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brick clay in February and of an additional 4 carloads monthly will not be fulfilled.

(46) The NK for Procurement in Moscow was asked whether the floating elevator dismantled for transport to Krasnovodsk is to be reassembled in Poti. Nine persons have been assigned to guard the individual parts of the elevator. The costs of assembly and repair of the elevator will amount to about 500000 rubles.

(47) The State Control in Moscow reports the results of the repair work on trucks and motors in January/February as:

		<u>Plan</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Truck	GAZ AA	550	188
Truck	ZIS	100	15
Motors	GAZ	60	40
Motors	ZIS	20	6

Of the repaired trucks there were 136 without bodies. Basis for non-fulfillment of the repair plan; lack of mechanical truck parts, electrical equipment, rivets, etc. The quality of the repair work is satisfactory. There was a report from Tiflis to the Chief Directorate for Power Current Supply in Moscow that the actual consumption of felt for the manufacture of shoes was 3.5 tons. The receipt of the remaining 6.5 tons was delayed by interruption of factory production. The stock amounts to 2000 stockings and 800 boots.

(48) Armavir reports to Moscow the stock of 61 tractors and 4 caterpillar tractors. 33 tractors on wheels need a general overhauling and must be repaired. There is a need for magnets, spark plugs, copper tubes, and white metal, which are not to be had in the troop division.

(49) The Tavdinskaya Wharf in Omsk received from Moscow the following building program for coal transport barges of 1700 tons:

4 barges	completed by May
1 barge	completed by July
3 barges	completed in 1944

Construction

(50) Tiflis All construction work of the Georgian Power Current Industry scheduled for February was carried out in the amount of 20000 rubles. The Chief Directorate for Air Communications of the NKVD in Moscow asked for acceleration of the order for shipment of 100 tons of cement.

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(51) In Zestafoni the lack of cement, wood material and quality sheet iron hinders the fulfillment of construction projects.

(52) For the construction of defense objects, the army construction division of the Transcaucasus front, as Moscow reported to Tiflis, needs 180 tons of quality iron and 2500 cbm. of timber material.

(53) Barge #730 in Vladimirovka needs a general overhauling, which cannot be carried out because of the lack of wood.

(54) In a message to Krasnoyarsk concerning the repair of wharves, the following were ordered:

1. The overhaul of the technical plants of the wharves has to be completed by 20 April.
2. Completion of simple loading equipment for 15000 rubles.
3. Guarantee 1943 shipping by overhauling the ships, which include 138000 tons to the extent of 30%.
4. Mobilization of 100 transport workers.

Reconstruction

(55) The regional office of the State Bank in Stavropol received 6500000 rubles for the reconstruction of MTS centers.

Transport Situation

(56) Tiflis. The (canning ?) factory in Gori shipped 15 cars to Volkhovstroj on 23 February. The established delivery of the shipment of 45 carloads is therefore fulfilled. The car assignment for March is expected.

(57) The Georgian NK for the Light Industry needs in April for the shipment of:

	Felt	2 cars
	Wool	1 car
	Leather	2 cars
In addition		2 cars

In April for the shipment of wool there will be needed:

Additional	20 cars
Total	46 cars

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(58) The railroad did not furnish 10 cars in January for laurel shipment. The 21 cars intended for February were likewise not furnished. The laurel spoiled.

(59) The Chief Directorate for Rubber in Moscow reported that the Transcaucasus Railroad, in spite of repeated demands from Erivan, furnished no cars for the shipment of equipment to Karaganda. For pumice stone transport the Transcaucasus Railroad granted 6 cars to Factory #702 for February. 4 cars were already loaded and 2 have not yet been furnished.

(60) Kutais reports on aniline dyes in Moscow: The 5 cars intended for January for shipment of lithopone were not furnished by the Transcaucasus Railroad, since a transport beyond the limits of the Transcaucasus Railroad is forbidden.

(61) Ordzhonikidze reported to the NK for Electricity in Moscow that Factory "Krasnaya Turbina" must receive a turbine of 3800 kw. The NK for Transportation must induce the Transcaucasus Railroad to furnish 16 cars to Baku.

Miscellaneous

(62) Armavir reported to the Chief Directorate for Fish Supply in Moscow that the rope factory burned down with raw materials and finished products.